

INNOVATIVE IDEAS FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE'S E-LAB SUMMIT

Lauren Shwisberg | November 7, 2018 | Workshop to Address the Accessibility of CPUC Proceedings





#### **About Us**

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit "think-and-do tank" and our mission is to transform global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future.



e-Lab is an assembly of thought leaders and decision makers from across the U.S. electricity sector who focus on collaborative innovation to address critical institutional, regulatory, business, economic, and technical barriers to the economic deployment of distributed resources in the U.S. electricity sector.



e-Lab Summit is a three-day, collaborative, multi-stakeholder workshop to advance innovative solutions at the electricity system's distribution edge designed for participants to:

- Collaborate with peers to create new solutions
- Exchange and pressure-test ideas
- Build lasting connections

#### E-Lab Summit Regulatory Engagement Pod Objectives

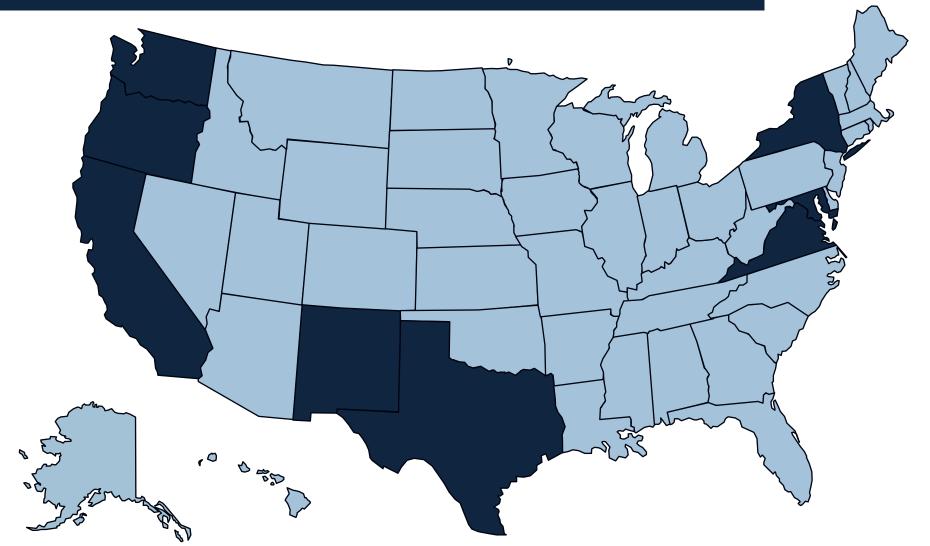
#### **Define the outcomes**

that advocates for disadvantaged communities want to see that the current policies and regulatory processes are or are not producing Map our understanding of:

- The various places and ways that current regulatory processes do and do not adequately serve disadvantaged communities
- Proposed changes to current regulatory processes and interventions around the country to improve access

for new, promising
modifications to
regulatory processes and
policy that produce the
defined outcomes for
disadvantaged communities

#### E-Lab Summit Regulatory Engagement Pod Participants

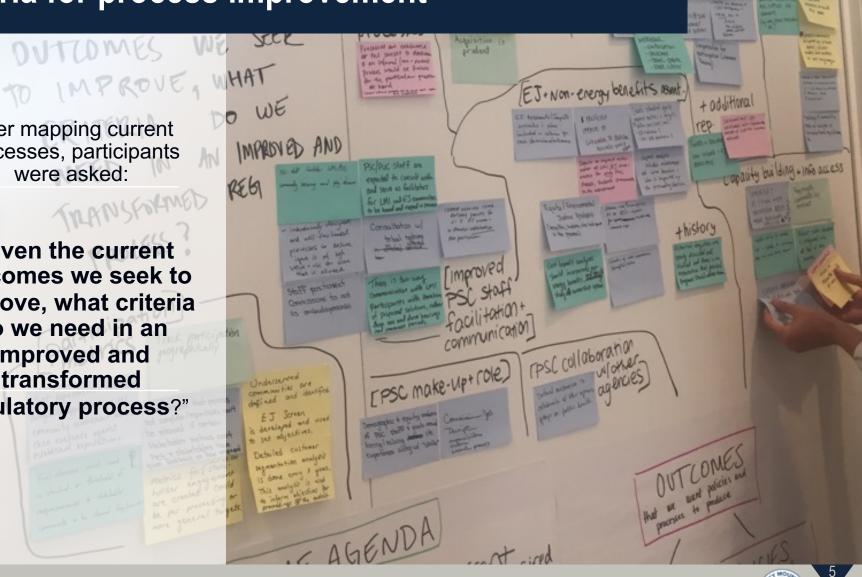




#### Criteria for process improvement

After mapping current processes, participants were asked:

"Given the current outcomes we seek to improve, what criteria do we need in an improved and transformed regulatory process?"



Transparency

Intervenor compensation





# There were three key areas of recommendation that resulted from this work:

4

Build stakeholder capacity to participate

2

Improve decisionmaker capacity to engage effectively

3

Align internal processes with stakeholder values

### Each key area contains several actionable recommendations

#### 1. BUILD STAKEHOLDER CAPACITY TO PARTICIPATE

- Improve transparency of processes and outcomes
  - Expand stakeholder access to education and technical resources
  - Consider additional representation
  - Design more inclusive modes of input

#### 2. IMPROVE DECISIONMAKER CAPACITY TO ENGAGE

- Build staff capacity for effective facilitation
  - Create pathways for inter-agency collaboration
- Strive toward a PUC make-up that reflects stakeholder base

#### 3. ALIGN INTERNAL PROCESSES WITH STAKEHOLDER VALUES

- Create opportunities for community-driven proposals
  - Engage stakeholders through objective and vision setting prior to formal proceedings
- Perform environmental justice and non-energy benefit impact assessments
- Implement metrics for engagement and participation



## 1. Build stakeholder capacity to participate

Improve transparency of processes and outcomes

Expand stakeholder access to education and technical resources

Consider additional representation

Design more inclusive modes of input

- Summary of filing with identified areas where additional expertise or feedback is needed
- Transparent decision-making frameworks, subject to stakeholder feedback
- Criteria to define accessibility of settlement negotiations to public
- Access to research staff pro bono
- Robust public education integrated to all processes
- Aggregate public comments by content
- Documentation easily accessible online
- Simplified roadmap for stakeholder participation
- Funded and dedicated low-income advocate, or other representation outside of the consumer advocate
- Meetings and accessibility needs are designed with community-based organizations
- Input can be provided on the record informally by non-intervenors
- Childcare provided, and meetings outside of 9-5
- Comments accepted via phone, email, social media, and written in any language



#### 2. Improve decisionmaker capacity to engage

Build staff capacity for effective facilitation

- Intentionally designed and well-facilitated processes to ensure input is of high value and use for time allocated
- Experiment with different modes of engagement and input
- Two-way communication with iteration on proposed solutions, rather than one-and-done hearings and comment periods
- Design processes for engagement in consultation with stakeholders



### 3. Align internal processes with stakeholder values

Create opportunities for community-driven proposals

- Stakeholders have the opportunity to collaborate and co-innovate around policies/ programs that impact them
- No assumptions about community goals and priorities

Engage stakeholders through objective and vision setting prior to formal proceedings

- Establish collective goals at the beginning of the process
- Robust stakeholder engagement prior to draft proposals

Perform environmental justice and non-energy benefit impact assessments

- EJ assessments / impacts are evaluated and value is included in criteria for decisions
- Cost-benefit analyses incorporate non-energy benefits
- Create standard equity impact metrics and targets
- Require impact assessments on LMI/EJ communities for every PUC process

Implement metrics for engagement and participation

- Set expectations for what adequate/appropriate engagement on community involvement means (including geographic participation) at the start of an engagement
- Final decisions must meet a standard of responsiveness to stakeholder comments
- Requirement that process is not complete until stakeholder metrics are met





### **THANK YOU!**



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